

Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #30

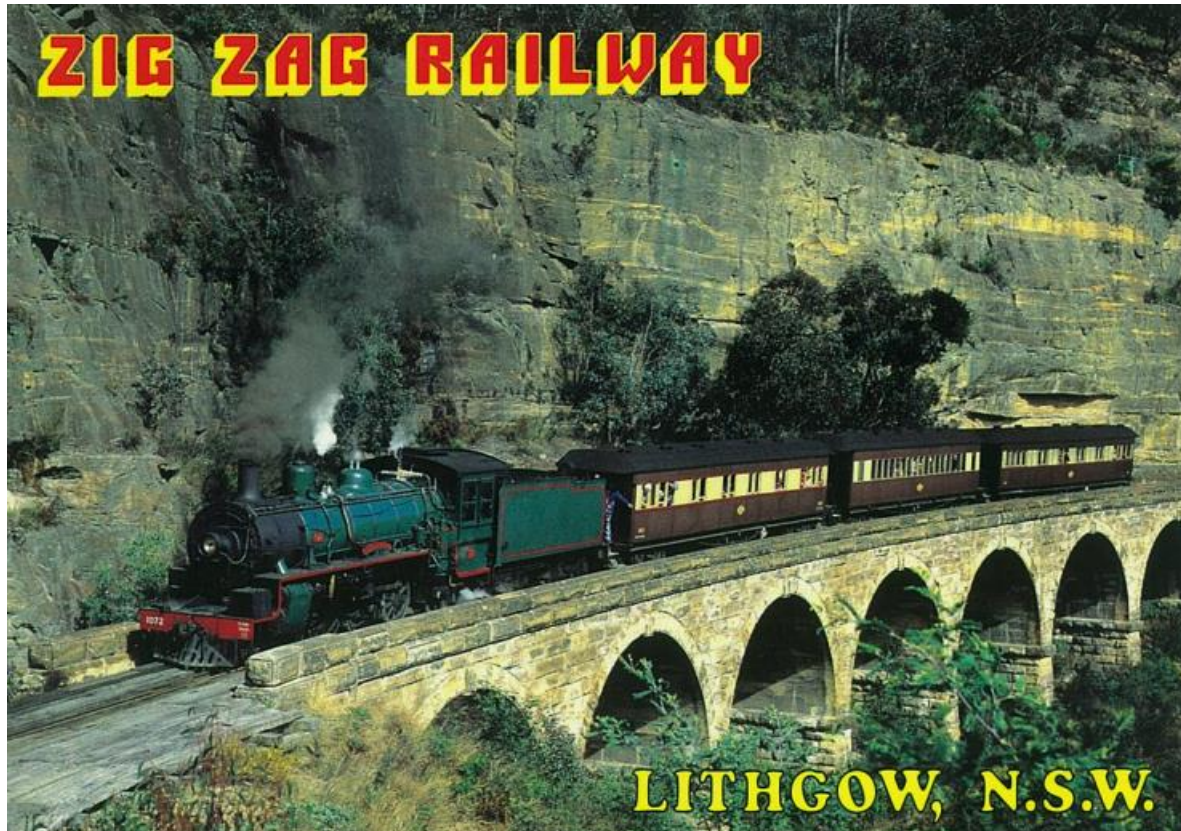
29 May 2023

In this issue:

- Heritage-listed Zig Zag Railway will be open to the public.
- Nomination for the John Monash Medal - Engineering Heritage Australia is now open.
- Vivid Sydney in the old Wynyard Tram Tunnels
- Reconstruction of the Quay Quarter Tower – A recorded webinar
- Historic Buildings – Construction Defects and Material Performance – Interesting upcoming talk in Tasmania

Heritage-listed Zig Zag Railway will be open to the public

After more than 10 years of closure, the 154-year-old Zig Zag railway is set to re-open on Saturday 27 May, according to Zig Zag Railway's official page on Facebook.



It will be open every second weekend, with three trips to choose from on Saturdays and again on Sundays, with passengers taking a 90-minute journey traveling through tunnels and over the viaducts. Tickets are now on sale until the end of 2023. A high demand for tickets is expected.

The Zig Zag Railway is an Australian heritage railway, situated near Lithgow, New South Wales in the Blue Mountain Region. It is listed in the NSW State Heritage Register, and it received the EA heritage plaque in 1992.

It was closed 10 years ago due to stricter rail regulations. The track was severely damaged by bushfires and storms, and the repair works were heavily affected by the COVID lockdown.

(From Firas Shawash)

Nomination for the John Monash Medal - Engineering Heritage Australia is now open

Nomination for the John Monash Medal - Engineering Heritage Australia is now open, and will close on 4 July 2023. For more information regarding the nomination criteria, please refer to the link below:

https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/about-us/excellence-awards-program/achievement-awards?utm_source=website-homepage&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=EAEA23#accordion-135706

Unlike the previous year, this year, self-nomination is accepted by EA.

The John Monash Medal is awarded by Engineering Heritage Australia (EHA) and recognises outstanding contributions made by an individual towards increasing awareness, and conservation, of Australia's engineering heritage. For a list of previous winners, please refer to the link below:

<https://eha.mywikis.wiki/wiki/Awards>

(From Mike Taylor)

Vivid Sydney in the old Wynyard Tram Tunnels

Our EHS Deputy Chair, Bill Phippen, was interviewed on the ABC's 7.30 Report on Wednesday 3 May 2023, as part of the report of the Vivid Sydney's event Dark Spectrum. This hi-tech light show uses the old tram tunnels at Wynyard Station, and is described on the Vivid Sydney website as:

Set in an immersive multi-media environment, this heightened visual and audio experience transports you deep into Sydney's legendary Wynyard underground network. Imagine standing deep underground, discovering a secret passageway and stepping into a rainbow. You hear the pulse of Electronic Dance Music drawing you deeper. You are now immersed within Dark Spectrum.

Move through this eight-room experience, each area filled with a different colour linked to its own altered soundscape taking you into a new time and space. This euphoric underground light show fuses EDM and lighting tech to create a universal language. Prepare to be inspired, unleash the mystery of Dark Spectrum.

Through his ARHS connections, Bill gave an excellent background on the tunnels and how Dr JJC Bradfield had intended them to be part of the Sydney rail network from the Northern Beaches, which unfortunately never happened. You can watch this episode through ABC iView until 8.00pm on 2 June 2023 - and it's free. Bill's segment is in the last 5 minutes of the show, so stick with it or fast forward.

Perhaps then you will be inspired to visit Dark Spectrum, which will be running from 26 May to 17 June 2023, from 12noon to 9.15pm. You can book tickets through the Vivid Sydney website at: <https://www.vividsydney.com/event/light/dark-spectrum>

Here is a chance to wander through this rarely seen engineering heritage, while experiencing some very innovative and spectacular light displays. I'll certainly be going, as I used to park my car in these tunnels while working in "The Railways" Head Office, and will be keen to see how the light show people have used this very ordinary space.

(From Frank Johnson)

Reconstruction of the Quay Quarter Tower

On 17 April 2023, EHS arranged a talk on the very innovative reconstruction of the AMP office tower at Circular Quay, now the Quay Quarter Tower. This was given by Vince Betto, Director – Buildings & Property, BG&E, and Robert Saidman, Principal Group Leader – ARUP NSW & ACT. The talk covered:

Approach: The first aspect is the story of establishing the viability of a circular economy and reuse at an immense scale. The easy response would have been to demolish and rebuild, but the talk covered how the design team demonstrated that a solution based on reuse of the building fabric could be achieved in an economical manner.

Implementation: The talk then covered how these very challenging objectives were practically achieved. This included:

- Space optimisation: How the building services, structure and architecture allowed for an effective reuse solution.
- Design: The structural “gymnastics”, the engineering involved in converting a 1970s building into a 21st Century, post-Covid office space, and the digital strategy across all engineering design elements.
- Innovation: Such as double deck lifts, the first such installation in an existing commercial office premium grade building in the world.
- Façade design: How the façade was engineered to balance daylight, energy, glare and views.
- Outcomes: Including the overarching sustainability outcomes of the project, beyond just the reuse.



The talk created a lot of interest from EA Members, with 481 registered and 273 attending.

EA now has now advised that the ***Reconstruction the Quay Quarter Tower*** event is now live on EA OnDemand [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quay_Quarter_Tower#)

(From Frank Johnson / photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quay_Quarter_Tower#)

Historic Buildings – Construction Defects and Material Performance

On 4 July 2023 Peter Spratt, EHT member and Monash award winner will provide a talk with case studies with the performance of heritage buildings, in particular those in Tasmania. If you are coming to Tasmania about that time, contact the Divisional office to reserve your place.

(From Bob Taaffe)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

This Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin is published by Engineers Australia's National Committee for Engineering Heritage. Statements made or opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Engineers Australia.